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SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

[REDACTED] joint Soviet - Warsaw Pact maneuvers were scheduled to be held in Poland between 16 and 18 December. The maneuvers reportedly would not result in any confrontations with Polish forces and would be conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Agreement. The Soviets have not yet announced such an exercise. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Political Developments

Soviet media coverage of Polish events were low key over the weekend. The Soviets have been trying to encourage the notion that the Warsaw Pact has no intention of interfering in Poland's internal affairs. Since President Brezhnev's return from India on Thursday, Soviet commentary has repeated East European leadership statements that Poland's problems are for the Poles to solve. These comments are presumably designed to counter recent Western warnings regarding Soviet exploitation of the Polish crisis.

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Polish Ceremonies

The Polish regime is attempting to project an image of calm as the emotional 10th anniversary ceremonies commemorating the workers killed in 1970 approaches. As

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part of the effort to show government sympathy with the workers, and to prevent the ceremonies from taking an antiregime character, an article honoring the memories of the 46 fallen workers appeared in the trade union journal on Saturday.

#### Kania Reaffirms Socialist Ties

Kania, addressing the 8th Congress of the Polish Peasant Party on Saturday, reaffirmed Poland's ties to the USSR and underscored the country's commitment to the socialist community. Kania expressed his conviction that Poland would overcome its current problems. He also warned unnamed internal enemies that Poland cannot be pushed off its path of socialist development.

The Polish leader also argued against the creation of agricultural unions, saying agrarian problems should not be solved through creating new structures, but by enhancing self-government in existing organizations. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 farmers met in Warsaw yesterday and formally reiterated their demands for an independent union. The meeting apparently stopped short of issuing a formal strike threat if the courts fail on 30 December to recognize their union.

#### Catholic Bishops Appeal For Unity

A second Church appeal for national unity was read at Sunday mass in Warsaw and broadcast nationwide. The Bishops called for "responsibility, prudence, and courage" as well as "sacrifices and self-denials" to bring about a renewal of Poland.

#### Polish Media

The Polish media continues to wage a campaign against the West to assuage Soviet concerns and reaffirm Warsaw's socialist credentials. The Polish weekly *Kultura* carried an article yesterday saying it is necessary to base the country's political life on a reaffirmation of the party as the leading political force in society.

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The official party daily *Trybuna Ludu* on Saturday accused the West of spreading alarm over Poland to disguise its own military buildup. It described the anti-Soviet "hysteria" as an attempt to disrupt Poland's friendly relations with its allies and to hamper the nation's resolution of its problems. The paper echoes similar attacks on the West by the Soviet press and may in part be designed to calm domestic fear over the possibility of Soviet-led military intervention.

#### Hungarian Trade Union Congress

Hungarian party leader Kadar yesterday expressed his belief that the Polish people will be able to resolve their internal problems themselves but warned that reactionaries and "enemies of socialism" were watching Poland closely. Speaking to the Hungarian Trade Union Congress, Kadar noted that international peace and detente were at stake in Poland's political crisis. Probably to reaffirm Hungary's loyalty, Kadar referred to the Moscow summit communique's warning that the Warsaw Pact allies will ensure that Poland remains part of the "family of socialist peoples."

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